



October 2, 2018

The Honorable Hank Vaupel

State Representative

N-896 House Office Building

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Vaupel,

In November of 2011 I was invited to attend the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Legacy and Innovation National Conference for Improving Oral Health for All Children in Seattle, Washington.

The conference was attended by advocates, past grantees devoted to oral health work, leaders and advocates who champion oral health initiatives, coalition partners working on the Dental Therapist Project, dentist champions and all oral health professionals, dental therapists and dental therapy program directors from Alaska and policy makers.

We were all involved in a working format where, in addition to conference speakers, attendees would convene into breakout groups to share ideas and strategies for national implementation of mid-level dental care providers. I met numerous caring and talented individuals who sincerely believe that restrictive state dental practice acts are prohibiting care to the most vulnerable citizens, i.e. children and low income families and people in underserved or remote areas.

The Michigan State Denturist Society, Inc. would like to express sincere support for Senate Bill 541. It is our belief that the that the educated and licensed mid-level dental care providers as delineated in Senate Bill 541 would be a benefit to the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Michigan. I, myself, am volunteering to lead State sponsored weekend course sessions to instruct on the nuances and quality supporting technical skills necessary for providers to accomplish repairs and improvements to dentures and partial dentures as listed in the bill. I will not charge for my instruction.

It is time that the leaders concerned with the Michigan oral health workforce move to implement roles for new oral healthcare providers that increase access for more people.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Pontack, B.Sc., CDT, CDP

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December 2, 2011

Mike Pontack
Michigan Denturist Task Force
112 West Grand River
Howell, MI 48843

Dear Mr. Pontack,

On behalf of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we extend a heartfelt thank you for joining us in Seattle at the *Legacy and Innovation: Improving Oral Health for ALL Children* meeting in Seattle, Wash. We were struck by the level of engagement and commitment in the room, and the ideas generated for involving community to improve and expand oral health access for children.

We are grateful to our valued "alumni" grantees, advocates, community leaders and health professionals who joined us. We were energized by the buzz and the generative conversations of how together, we could expand our network of communities and increase opportunities for better oral health for all children, families, and communities across the country.

We heard you in the small group conversations, and have captured many of your suggestions as we prepare some next steps. You are on our email list, and will soon receive an invitation to a secured, online community (much like Facebook) that will allow you to connect with other meeting participants, and stay connected to the movement through stories, reports, conversations, etc. We'll also share a variety of media stories such as last week's two-part PBS NewsHour report on oral health access that also highlighted the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist model as a possible solution. Finally, we have enclosed a copy of the video – *Looking Back, Moving Forward*, for you to watch and share in your communities.

Exploring and advocating for new models to expand access to oral health takes courage and commitment. You came to Seattle, and demonstrated your willingness to transform your passion and commitment into action. Your dedication to assuring that *all* children have access to dental care – whether they live in rural New Mexico or in Detroit, Mich. - is what leads us to believe that one day, we will see expanded access to oral health care for ALL children.

Warmest Regards,



Sterling K. Speirn
President and CEO



Gail C. Christopher
Vice President of Program Strategy

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